

STARS AND STRIPES

Saturday, January 25, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas



Secret sinking

A quest for truth, naval history rewritten

BY HELEN O'NEILL

The Associated Press

BROCKTON, Mass. — Paul Lawton's quest to rewrite history began in a Brockton bar on a cold March night in 1998.

Warmed by Budweisers and shots of Yukon Jack, he listened as his lifelong friends, two brothers, told the tale of a U.S. warship blown to pieces just south of Portland, Maine, late in World War II, and

of their father, a 32-year-old seaman who perished in the blast.

Vividly the brothers, Bob and Paul Westerlund, recalled the sadness of the time. And they remembered the Navy explanation: A boiler explosion had split the 200-foot submarine chaser, the USS Eagle PE 56, in two.

A terrible accident, the Navy said, all the more tragic because it happened just two weeks before Germany surrendered.

This is an undated photograph of the USS Eagle PE 56, a submarine chaser sunk by a German U-boat on April 23, 1945, in the final days of World War II. The photo is among the material attorney Paul Lawton of Brockton, Mass., has collected about the extensive investigation of the incident, which, at the time, the Navy officially attributed to an on-board boiler explosion. Forty-nine sailors perished while only 13 were rescued.

AP

But their mother never believed the official version. And so she told her children what survivors told her — that moments after the explosion, as they were diving into the frigid water, they glimpsed something dark and sinister. It rose to the surface for an instant, but they would never forget the sight — a submarine conning tower painted with a mischievous red horse trotting on a yellow shield.

Lawton, a lawyer and military historian, is obsessed by submarines. As a child he spent hours drawing intricate replicas of U-boats and battleships.

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Spain: U.S. can use bases in war on Iraq

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — If war against Iraq is "inevitable," Spain will allow the United States to use its military bases.

Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio told Spain's Parliament members in Madrid on Thursday that the government will "adopt all the measures that derive from the responsibilities assumed with countries friends and allies," including "the use of the military bases."

Spain has allowed U.S. forces to use and station servicemembers at Naval Station Rota, north of Cadiz, and Moron Air Base, southeast of

Seville, since the early 1950s. A defense pact signed last April extended the partnership.

"In the event a military intervention in Iraq becomes inevitable, the government will not shy away from its political convictions," Palacio said in a speech.

She did not say whether Spain would back the United States in a unilateral attack. She also did not mention whether Spain would contribute any of its own forces.

The foreign minister's statement is the first time the Spanish government has publicly acknowledged that the U.S. military could use the bases for a possible war against Iraq. Her speech

came a day after both French and German leaders announced they would push for a peaceful solution to the Iraqi conflict.

Between 6,000 and 7,000 active-duty U.S. military personnel, their families and Defense Department civilians are stationed at Rota and Moron.

The bases serve largely as key stopping points for cargo aircraft and their crews traveling between the continental United States and the Middle East or Europe. Most ships pick up supplies and troops in Rota upon entering or leaving the Mediterranean Sea.

The installations — about halfway geographically between the States and the Mid-

dle East — were key hubs during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Spanish socialist lawmakers have criticized Spain's center-right government for allowing U.S. forces to use the military bases in any action against Iraq.

Andalusia regional leader Manuel Chaves sent a letter to President Jose Maria Aznar earlier last week demanding that he not allow the United States to use the bases in an attack.

One political party planned to protest any war against Iraq in front of the U.S. Consulate in Seville this week, according to local media reports.

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Iraq claims injuries

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq said Saturday that U.S. and British warplanes have attacked “civilian and military installations” in the southern Babil province, injuring three people, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

The agency didn’t say when the attack occurred, but appeared to be referring to an airstrike Friday in which American warplanes used precision-guided bombs to target an air defense command and control site near al-Haswah, according to the U.S. military.

The site, about 35 miles south of Baghdad, was targeted because it posed a threat to pilots patrolling the southern no-fly zone, it said.

It made no mention of British warplanes.

Friday’s strike was the first since Sunday, when American planes bombed two communications sites in southern Iraq. American planes also dropped about 360,000 leaflets in southern Iraq on Friday, urging Iraqis not to rebuild bombed air defense sites and to listen to U.S. propaganda radio broadcasts.

Shots reported

KUWAIT CITY — Shots were reportedly fired Saturday morning near a U.S. military convoy on the outskirts of Kuwait city, but the circumstances surrounding the incident remained unclear and no injuries were reported, U.S. and Kuwaiti officials said.

“There is a report that shots were fired in the vicinity of a U.S. military convoy” at around 8:15 a.m. on Sixth Ring Road, along the southern edge of the city, U.S. military spokesman Capt. David Connolly said.

Connolly did not say where the report came from and said he could not confirm its veracity nor whether the military convoy was the target.

From The Associated Press

News tracker: What’s new with old news

States

Church abuse: Many alleged victims of clergy sexual abuse who are suing the Archdiocese of Boston have agreed to a 90-day moratorium halting pretrial preparations while settlement talks progress, The Boston Globe reported Saturday.

The moratorium was first proposed by Bishop Richard Lennon shortly after he became apostolic administrator of the archdiocese, following Cardinal Bernard Law’s resignation, the newspaper said.

But Mitchell Garabedian, who represents about 110 people with claims against the church, said he will not take part.

World

Ivory Coast peace: French President Jacques Chirac and U.N. chief Kofi Annan opened a summit of West African leaders on Saturday by urging Ivory Coast’s warring factions to implement a peace deal struck in Paris and lay down their arms once and for all.

Chirac opened the summit with a warning

that the accord had to be followed up with concrete action on the ground.

The accord seeks to end four months of bloodletting that has crippled the world’s largest cocoa producer and to ease ethnic tensions.

Military

Helicopter crash: A team of 20 investigators searched for answers Friday to the helicopter collision over Falcon Lake State Park that killed four seasoned Marine fliers.

Pool said it could be months before officials end their investigation into Wednesday night’s crash of two AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters.

War

Ricin links: Sixteen suspected al-Qaida terrorists, who authorities say are possibly linked to the ricin poison case in Britain, will go before a Spanish judge for preliminary questioning Sunday, court officials said.

After the questioning, the judge can either release them without charges or on bail, or jail them while he continues his probe.

From wire reports

Iraqi scientists refuse interviews

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Three Iraqi scientists refused to submit to requested private interviews with U.N. inspectors in their search for signs of forbidden arms programs, a senior Iraqi official reported Saturday.

One of the three did undergo U.N. questioning, but in the presence of an Iraqi official, said the source, who spoke with The Associated Press on condition he not be identified. He did not name the scientists involved or their specialties.

The Baghdad government said Friday night it had “encouraged” three scientists to accept unmonitored interviews, under an agreement reached last Monday with the chief U.N. inspectors.

However, the White House has accused the government of intimidating scientists into refusing private interviews.

Earlier on Saturday, in unrelated and unexplained incidents, two men — one carrying knives, the other shouting “Save me!” and carrying a

notebook — tried to enter the U.N. inspectors’ compound on Baghdad’s outskirts, a U.N. spokesman said.

The first man was apprehended as he tried to get through a front gate and was taken away by Iraqi police. Journalists said the second was led inside the compound, and U.N. spokesman Hiro Ueki said he was handed over to Iraqi authorities at a government office next door.

U.N. inspectors have been trying to question the scientists privately because they believe that Iraqis knowledgeable about possible weapons programs would be less candid when questioned with government monitors present. In all formal interview requests thus far, however, the Iraqi specialists have asked to have government representatives present.

Arms inspectors did meet with an unidentified Iraqi, possibly one of the three, in an apparent effort to win his agreement on private questioning. That man, accompanied by an Iraqi official, was met about 10:40 a.m. at the front door of a

Baghdad hotel by a U.N. inspection team leader, who led the man inside. He left about noon in a government car, seen off by the same inspector. Both coming and going, he refused to speak with waiting reporters.

The subject of private interviews has become a major issue in advance of a U.N. chief inspectors’ report Monday on how well Iraq has cooperated during the first two months of renewed arms inspections.

Two days before its “report card” on arms inspections is due, one U.N. agency said Baghdad would get a “quite satisfactory” grade on its responses to inspectors’ questions and requests for information.

Late Friday, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry said new requests had been received from U.N. officials for interviews Saturday with three Iraqi scientists, who were not publicly identified. The Iraqi liaison agency working with the inspectors said it had “encouraged” the three to grant private interviews.

Secret: Navy denied sub sank ship

Continued from Page 1

He has taught courses in U-boat history.

He can recite every detail of every battle and loss in the Atlantic. But he had never heard this story before.

Lawton knew the trotting horse was the insignia of a German U-boat, the U-853, which the records said had sunk just one ship in New England waters — a coal tanker called the Black Point. But the brothers insisted that the U-853 also sank the USS Eagle.

Lawton's head was reeling. Forty-nine men died in the Eagle disaster. If they had died in enemy action, they were entitled to Purple Hearts.

Back at his apartment, Lawton pulled out his U-boat "bible," a two-inch thick book by German historian Jurgen Rohwer. A footnote contained a reference to the USS Eagle and to its probable sinking by the U-853.

Lawton started digging through the archives, calling military historians, writing letters to various branches of the Navy. He requested the report from the court of inquiry into the sinking, witness statements, deck logs. Sorry, the replies said; the files were missing, presumed lost.

Lawton requested the records of other ships operating in the area at the time, including the USS Selfridge, a destroyer which had rescued 13 men from the sinking Eagle. Buried in the military jargon of its deck logs he found references to sonar detections, and to a hunter-killer task force of destroyers and bombers assembled to track down a sub immediately after the sinking.

Inspired by Lawton, the Westerlunds placed a small notice in The Boston Globe, saying they were looking for survivors of the USS Eagle.

Two people contacted them. John Breeze, a former naval engineer and USS Eagle survivor vividly recalled the sinking, the rescue, the dark silhouette of the submarine. Alice Hultgren, a former WAVE remembered taking notes at the hastily convened court of inquiry at the naval dispensary where the survivors were treated.

Both were shocked when Lawton told him the official Navy explanation.

"Boiler explosion!" Breeze exclaimed over the phone. "We all knew it was a sub. How could the Navy deny it?"

"The fellows all said there had been a sub," Hultgren said.

Their testimony filled 18 pages. Still, Lawton's letters to the Navy continued to be dismissed.

"The cause of the sinking has been determined to be the result of a boiler explosion," was the reply he received, over and over.

Lawton felt hopeless.

And then one morning in October 1999, a package arrived, a 76-page document dated June 1, 1945. The Court of Inquiry report, the formal record that the Navy insisted was missing.

Lawton would never know for sure who sent it. He didn't need to.

In page after page, survivors stated they had seen a sub.

To Lawton, it was clear. Top naval officials knew the Eagle had been sunk by a German submarine. They just couldn't bring themselves to publicly admit it.

Lawton was elated. Surely now the Navy would listen to him.

But nothing changed. A year passed. Lawton continued writing letters to everyone he could think of. And he continued to be told that nothing could be done.

Lawton's father, a retired judge and former state representative, became so incensed at the way his son was being ignored that he called his old friend, Congressman Joseph Moakley.

In late fall 2000, Moakley petitioned the Navy to reopen the Eagle investigation. Though the Navy didn't agree to Moakley's request, it did forward Lawton's research to the Naval Historical Center.

There, it landed on the desk of Bernard Cavalcante, an archivist.

Cavalcante read Lawton's work in shock, marveling at the research, appalled by the Navy's response. Whatever the justification in wartime, Cavalcante thought, it was time to set the record straight.

In May 2001, Cavalcante's sent a letter to Navy Secretary Gordon England, enclosing a synopsis of Lawton's research and documents backing up the case. And he enclosed a rare recommendation — that the historical record be changed to state that the USS Eagle was sunk as a result of enemy action.

The ceremony was simple and solemn, tinged with sadness and with triumph. Aboard a naval museum ship in Quincy on a steamy day last June, the families of the men of the Eagle gathered for a final tribute.

The top Navy brass was there, sitting next to widows and sisters and brothers of the men who had died. One by one, the names of the dead were read aloud as family members stepped forward and accepted Purple Hearts.

Soldiers accused in shooting

TUZLA, Bosnia and Herzegovina - Three American Stabilization Force soldiers returned to their home units following an shooting incident at Bjelasnica Mountain, near Sarajevo.

The three soldiers, whose names and were not released, are accused of firing shots at an unattended civilian vehicle on Sunday morning.

Officials would not say what, if any, disciplinary action the soldiers face.

"It's too early to be speculative on our part and comment on any possible action taken against these folks until the investigation is complete," said Maj. Shawn Mell, an SFOR spokesman.

It is not known why the soldiers were on the mountainside at the time of the incident, Mell said.

The commander of SFOR, Lt. Gen. William Ward, decided that SFOR would compensate the vehicle's owner for any damages.

Army mechanic acquitted

HEIDELBERG, Germany A U.S. Army mechanic, assigned to NATO, was acquitted Wednesday of assaulting a female soldier following a two-day court-martial.

Spc. Ricardo Bullinger, 27, of Warrington, Pa., faced charges of aggravated assault with intent to cause bodily harm, V Corps officials said. Bullinger is assigned to the NATO Joint Headquarters Center.

The charges stemmed from a June 14 incident where a female specialist in Heidelberg reported being punched and kicked. The trial, which cleared Bullinger of the charges, was held in Mannheim.

Air base unit recognized

A Ramstein Air Base, Germany, unit has been recognized by the Department of Defense for its ability to get the word out to its people.

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Network Operations and Security Center recently won the DOD Chief Information Officer Award.

The program recognizes achievement in at least one of seven key areas of information technology: acquisition; architecture and interoperability; information assurance; management and standards; applications (technology or process); capital planning and investment; and information management/information technology work force.

The Ramstein unit was lauded for developing information technology solutions to improve communication to more than 40,000 customers across 10 European and Asian countries.

Col. John M. Maluda, assigned to USAFE at Ramstein, took second place in the individual category.

Maluda was cited for a computer security initiative that realized a 68-person staff reduction and established a common standard for computer security operations.

From staff reports

Iraq to get a 'satisfactory'

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — The head of the U.N. nuclear agency will tell the Security Council on Monday that Saddam Hussein has done a "quite satisfactory" job of cooperating with inspectors in some areas but that inspectors need more time to complete their search.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, will tell the Security Council that his inspectors have gotten generally good cooperation from the Iraqis in their weapons hunt, IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said.

"Their report card will be . . . quite satisfactory," he said.

The United States dismissed the assessment. White House spokesman Sean McCormack said: "It's pass-fail. Iraq either is in compliance or not. And so far Iraq has failed to pass the test."

A senior U.S. official said the Bush administration was considering agreeing to let the inspections go on longer as a means of reassuring European allies following a rift that broke out last week with France and Germany.

Later, seeking to qualify his report card comments, Gwozdecky said the grade is only for responding to inspectors' questions and requests for information.

In his remarks to the council, ElBaradei will repeat his contention that the inspectors need at least several more months to do their work, Gwozdecky said. He will also say that the Iraqis "need to help themselves" by pointing the experts in the right direction.

A senior official in Washington said the Bush administration is considering extending the inspections in an effort to ward off mounting criticism at home and abroad that it is rushing toward war.

Reports about Yokohama land denied

BY RICK CHERNITZER
AND HIROSHI CHIDA

Stars and Stripes

U.S. military officials denied reports Thursday that they have agreed to discuss returning about 600 acres of land in Yokohama, including the Navy's Negishi housing area.

Japanese broadcaster NHK and the Tokyo Shimbun newspaper announced that the Japanese and U.S. governments had started negotiations earlier in the week. The areas included Negishi, parts of Kamiseya, which houses a communications facility, a transmitter site at Fukaya and an old warehouse at Tomioka. NHK even said Negishi residents would be relocated to the Ikego housing area if the plan went through.

The final decision on returning any land is made through the U.S.-Japan Joint Committee, which consists of representatives from U.S. Forces Japan, their counterparts in the Japanese government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and U.S. Embassy officials.

"The joint committee has

not agreed to release any of these facilities and has not yet agreed to study this issue," said Cmdr. Dave Wells, a Commander Naval Forces Japan spokesman. "I cannot speculate on what the joint committee might discuss in the future."

At any time, Wells said, "the U.S. Navy has under consideration numerous plans concerning the most efficient use of our facilities worldwide. In the event any significant changes to the use of facilities in Japan are contemplated, the government of Japan and the public will be notified."

The committee meets every other week to discuss issues of mutual concern, such as the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement and installations.

"The press reports are inaccurate, and we'll not speculate on what the joint committee might consider in the future," said Air Force Col. Vic Warzinski, a U.S. Forces Japan spokesman.

Takashi Ohigashi of the Japan Defense Facility Administration Agency's facility

department said Kamiseya and Fukaya have been discussed in the past. He was surprised, however, to see Negishi included in the recent report.

Seiichiro Taguchi of the Foreign Ministry's SOFA division said landowners have previously requested the return of unused land.

"The Japan and U.S. sides are probing how and where they will discuss the issue," he said. "It is all at the start of the whole discussion and there is nothing concrete on the matter as reported in Japanese newspapers."

In 1999, the Asahi Shimbun reported that USFJ offered to hand over portions of Negishi, which was built in 1948, and Kamiseya in exchange for new housing construction on bases. That would have amounted to about 445 acres. Those reports were never substantiated.

Warzinski declined to say if a land proposal was brought up in the past.

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Bush to spell out Iraq policy in State of Union

BY TOM RAUM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is readying his State of the Union speech in unusually trying times: a shaky economy, expanding federal deficits, the longest stock market decline in 60 years, increased worries about terrorism and escalating nuclear tensions with North Korea.

But his biggest challenge in Tuesday night's televised speech may be preparing the country for possible war with Iraq — and to confront rising skepticism over such a course.

Polls show his approval ratings slipping into the 50s for the first time since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, amid public

doubt over Bush's economic stewardship and what many see as a rush to war with Baghdad.

"The state of the union is delicate," said Ross K. Baker, a political scientist at Rutgers University.

Iraq clearly is the central issue for Bush to address, Baker said. "He's got to use the occasion to lay out in the clearest possible terms the case for war, which I think many people think he has yet to make."

The administration has beaten war drums on Iraq since Bush's State of the Union speech a year ago, when he linked Iraq, Iran and North Korea in "an axis of evil."

On the domestic front, Bush

is expected to promote his 10-year \$674 billion tax-cutting plan while also pressing for prescription drug benefits for the elderly and Medicare overhaul. Other items on his list are federal help for charitable organizations, legal system changes to limit costly lawsuits, allowing more domestic energy development and Senate confirmation for backlogged judicial nominees.

"No matter how important issues of war and peace are to the American people, there remains a very important domestic agenda," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Still, the issue of what's next in Iraq remained the most pressing piece of unfinished business.

Domino's to deliver free pizza to troops

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — Domino's Pizza is promising a special delivery during the Super Bowl, and it might even make it in 30 minutes or less.

According to the pizza chain and Army public affairs officials, about 1,500 soldiers at Camp Doha, Kuwait, and Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia, will get more than 6,000 free slices of pizza for a post-midnight snack.

Super Bowl Sunday becomes Super Bowl Monday in the Middle East, as the showdown between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Oakland Raiders will be broadcast live at 2 a.m. via the American Forces Network.

"Super Bowl Sunday has become an American holiday, and we want to ensure our troops serving overseas are

able to enjoy the game with a taste from home," said a statement attributed to Domino's chairman and CEO Dave Brandon.

A spokeswoman for the restaurant chain said the pizzas would be delivered from a few of the half-dozen Domino's shops in Kuwait City. Between the driving time to Doha on the far North-west side of the city and the intense security around the camp, the pies just might be oven-fresh when delivered.

An undetermined number of soldiers will crowd in front of a big-screen television broadcasting the game in Frosty's, a Morale, Welfare and Recreation club on Camp Doha, officials said Saturday.

"I haven't heard anything about the free pizzas, but they'll be watching the game on the big screen, and I'm sure they would be glad to have it," said Sgt. 1st Class

David Dismukes, an Army spokesman at Doha.

The soldiers will also get a chance to watch themselves onscreen, as ABC — the network broadcasting football's championship game this year — is expected to set up a live satellite cut to the troops in Kuwait sometime during the game.

According to the last official figures, at least 15,000 American servicemembers are in various bases in Kuwait. But thousands more troops pour into the region daily, as the U.S. girds for a possible confrontation with Iraq over alleged weapons of mass destruction.

For at least a couple of hours during the game early Monday morning, troops will have something else to occupy their thoughts and something other than warmed-over chow or Meals, Ready to Eat to fill their stomachs.

The pizzas will include a va-

riety of toppings. Of course, most of the favorites — pepperoni, sausage, Canadian Bacon — violate strict Islamic dietary laws in regards to pork products.

In Kuwait, a country overrun with American fast-food outlets, the menus are adjusted accordingly. Domino's has more than 7,000 stores in the U.S. and 50 other countries, including five in Kuwait City.

Toppings here are conspicuously advertised as "100% beef pepperoni" and "100% pure beef sausage," for example.

And because General Order No. 1 — not to mention the laws of Kuwait — prohibits the consumption of alcohol (and other taboos such as pornography and collecting war trophies), the soldiers will have to wash down the cheesy promotion with a few cold near-beers.

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Film festivities

New movies from Spike Lee, Steven Soderbergh, Spike Jonze and George Clooney are among the films in competition for the top Golden Bear award at this year's Berlin Film Festival.

The festival will run Feb. 6-16. It boasts entries ranging from China to Slovenia and will feature 10 world premieres, organizers said Wednesday.

Lee's "25th Hour," starring Edward Norton, joins Soderbergh's "Solaris," Jonze's "Adaptation" and Clooney's directorial debut, "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind," for the U.S. contingent.

Britain's Stephen Daldry contributes "The Hours," co-starring Nicole Kidman, Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore. Also showing is "The Life of David Gale," a U.S.-British co-production from Alan Parker, starring Kevin Spacey and Kate Winslet.

Three French films are competing: "Son Frere," from director Patrice Chereau, will make its world debut alongside Claude Chabrol's "La Fleur du Mal (The Flower of Evil)" and Pascal Bonitzer's "Petites Coupures."

The seven-member international jury will be headed by filmmaker Atom Egoyan.

Faces 'n' places

Royal thank-you

A 1991 letter from Prince Charles and Princess Diana thanking a paramedic who treated their elder son after he was hit on the head with a golf club is to be sold, auctioneers said.

The typewritten letter is expected to fetch up to \$2,400 when it goes on sale Jan. 29, Dominic Winter Book Auctions of Swindon, England, said Wednesday. It is signed by both royal parents.

"There is plenty of Charles and Diana memorabilia, but to get a letter of Charles and Diana talking about William is quite rare," said Richard Westwood-Brookes, documents expert at Dominic Winter.

The letter, dated June 26, 1991, refers to an incident earlier in the month when Prince William, then 8, was hospitalized with a depressed fracture to the forehead.

He underwent a 1½-hour operation at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital and needed 24 stitches. He was absent from school for about three weeks.

The letter from the Prince and Princess of Wales was written to Shabir Ahmed, one of the two ambulance workers who treated Prince William at his

school, Ludgrove Preparatory, in Wokingham, west of London, where the accident happened.

"We wanted to write and say how deeply grateful we are for all the skilled care and attention you gave him ... we always felt totally confident that William would be looked after in the most professional and proficient manner, and it was a great relief to know that he was in such wonderful hands," the letter reads.

Fellini museum

Fans of Federico Fellini will soon have another reason to travel to the resort city of Rimini, Italy, the filmmaker's hometown and the setting of his 1973 film "Amarcord."

A cultural organization dedicated to the director's memory plans to open a five-room museum on the ground floor of the Fellini family home to display his storyboards and sketches.

Organizers hope to open the museum in time for the Oct. 31 anniversary of the director's death in 1993, Catia Donini, a spokeswoman for the Federico Fellini Foundation, said Wednesday.

Born in 1920, Fellini was a major figure in postwar Italian cinema, famous for movies such as "La Dolce Vita" and "8 ½."

From The Associated Press

1 on 1

Who wins when the NFL's top offense and defense collide?

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — For all the intriguing matchups through 36 Super Bowls, the one that never occurred was No. 1 vs. No. 1. On Sunday, that changes.

The Oakland Raiders' dynamic, ultradangerous offense that has trampled nearly everyone faces the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' miserly defense, which has stymied almost everybody. It is a confrontation so juicy, so delicious, that the players are looking forward to it as much as the rest of America.

"I'd pay to see it," said Raiders defensive tackle Sam Adams, who knows all about immovable objects — he won a Super Bowl two years ago with the stingy Baltimore Ravens. "No. 1 vs. No. 1. Who could ask for more?"

Not the viewing public, which eagerly anticipates watching Defensive Player of the Year Derrick Brooks against NFL MVP Rich Gannon. Jerry Rice, merely the most accomplished receiver in history, against Brian Kelly, the league leader in interceptions.

Frank Middleton, the mouthy 330-pound former Buccaneer, trying to block Warren Sapp, the mouthy, 300-pound All-Pro Buccaneers defensive tackle.

"We're like an inferno, more heat than you can stand," Sapp said, gesturing as if flames were rising around him. "It's like we have guys running around with one gallon of gasoline in their pockets and then setting it off."

Oooooooh! Want more? How about Charlie Garner, the Raiders' versatile, hard-charging tailback, and John Lynch, the Buccaneers' venerable hard-hitting strong safety?

"It's only fitting to have the top offense against the top defense," Lynch said. "I consider this the best year ever in the NFL, with all the wild stuff and overtime games. And then, for the first time, you have this."

You also have Al Davis, the maverick owner of the Raiders, and the Glazers, the virtually anonymous owners of the Buccaneers. It was Davis who extracted two first-round draft choices and two seconds, plus \$8 million, from the Glazers a year ago to free Jon Gruden to skip from one pirate ship to another.

Gruden now coaches the Buccaneers, but he helped put together what has is now a nearly unstoppable offensive machine in Oakland.

Bill Callahan, whom Gruden hired with the Raiders, now oversees the AFC champions, in their first Super Bowl in 19 seasons. Tampa Bay is in its first ever.

And each side brings the very best unit: Oakland's star-studded offense and Tampa Bay's headliner-filled defense.

Consider that Rice, at 40, had one of his best seasons of an unparalleled career, with 92 catches for 1,211 yards and seven touchdowns. Or that Tim Brown, who did not have his best season, still caught 81 for 930 yards. And Brown has really come on in the postseason with a team-high 12 catches.

Garner not only rushed for 962 yards (5.3 average) and scored seven times — he certainly would have broken 1,000 yards had the Raiders not thrown so often — but he caught 91 passes, most by any running back in the league.

There's more. Third receiver Jerry Porter has become a real threat, averaging 17.5 yards on 10 playoff catches, with two TDs.

Zack Crockett is a force near the goal line. Lincoln Kennedy, the massive tackle, is an All-Pro having his finest season. Center Barret Robbins also is an All-Pro.

"Honestly, we're at the peak of our game right now," Kennedy said, "and it is the right time. The exact right time."

Ah, but is there ever a right time to meet the Buccaneers' fearsome defense? It has allowed 16 points in the postseason, and it yielded a league-low 196 points, 45 fewer than any other team.

End Simeon Rice led the NFC with 15½ sacks. Linebacker Brooks ran back three

interceptions and a fumble for touchdowns. Kelly had eight pickoffs and he isn't even the Bucs' best cornerback. Ronde Barber is.

Then there is Sapp, who has a way of taking control of a game even if he is not collecting sacks and a huge number of tackles.

Forget the arithmetic — Sapp can terrorize opponents without piling up the stats.

"He taught me a lot when I was in Tampa," said Middleton, who can expect some more lessons Sunday. "It will be like old friends having fun."

Well, not exactly. How many buddies slam each other around for a couple of hours as they try to lay claim to the other's territory? The winner will enter some very special territory. Should the Raiders post their season's average of 28 points — it's up to 35½ in the playoffs — they likely will earn their fourth NFL title. And with it, they will be compared to the great offensive juggernauts of Super Bowls past.

If the Bucs allow their season's average of 12.2 points, they figure to win their first NFL crown. And talk of their defense ranking with the 2000 Ravens or 1985 Bears will surface.

"Comparisons, comparisons — between the white lines is all that matters," Simeon Rice said. "Everything else is secondary. 'When it really comes down to it, the world could blow up, but you still got to do what you got to do.'"

Rice on slow boil as game nears

BY ERIC GILMORE

*Contra Costa Times
(Walnut Creek, Calif.)*

SAN DIEGO — The Super Bowl was just five days away, but Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive end Simeon Rice said he didn't even know the name, let alone the strengths and weaknesses, of the Raiders offensive tackle he would face.

"I don't really care about matchups," Rice said Tuesday. "I don't believe anybody can block me."

Rice may not care about matchups, but you can bet your Super Bowl tickets that the Raiders and left offensive tackle Barry Sims care about his confrontation with one of the NFL's most dangerous pass rushers and most confident players.

Rice vs. Sims is the most critical one-on-one matchup within the Super Bowl's most critical unit vs. unit matchup: the Raiders' No. 1 ranked offense against the Bucs' No. 1 ranked defense.

If Rice turns quarterback Rich Gannon into his personal tackling dummy, the Raiders are as good as dead.

"The matchup is critical, and the protection plan is

even more critical because Simeon Rice is a pass-rush specialist," Raiders coach Bill Callahan said. "He's the type of rusher who not only makes the sack but generates the turnover sack."

"He has a knack and a feel for stripping the ball out of the quarterback's hand. ... This is a dangerous guy that we have to account for on every snap, especially on third down when it gets into long-distance situations."

Rice finished second in the NFL's sack race with 15½ and forced six fumbles. Then in the playoffs he had two more sacks and forced two more fumbles.

With lightning quickness and a long, lean body — 6-foot-5 and 268 pounds — Rice is the NFC's answer to Miami Dolphins defensive end Jason Taylor, who posted a league-high 18½ sacks.

Sims and the Raiders remember Taylor all too well. When the Dolphins beat the Raiders 23-17 on Dec. 15, Taylor sacked Gannon three times, beating Sims each time. Two of those sacks came on the Raiders' first offensive possession. And he nearly had a sack hat trick on that series.

"They're definitely similar," Sims said of Rice and Taylor.

"They're both fast guys coming off the ball with long arms. They're play-makers. [Rice] has a great

ability to come upfield and knock the ball out of the quarterback's hands."

So what went wrong for Sims against Taylor? "I just wasn't disciplined in my [pass-blocking] sets," Sims said. "I reverted to some bad habits. ... I have to be disciplined. I have to have a hell of a game."

From start to finish, The Raiders can't afford to let Rice jump-start an emotional Bucs defense that feeds off sacks and turnovers. In the Super Bowl, when the pressure is so great and the tension level so high, one big play is often all it takes to spark one team and bury the other.

Stopping Rice won't be easy. He had 13 sacks in his final 10 regular-season games. In one span this season, he had two or more sacks in five straight games.

The Raiders can't expect Rice to wilt under the Super Bowl heat. He loves the attention. He loves the spotlight. And he loves to talk.

Consider his take on the battle between the NFL's top-rated offense and defense:

"It is going to be a game of epic proportions," Rice said. "The two best of the best. It's going to be a war of attrition. Through and through. They know us. We know them. I think they're like the antithesis of what we are. They are the bizarre Buccaneers. We are the bizarre-world Raiders. So it's all good."

Old guys give Raiders 'D' new look

BY PHIL SHERIDAN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SAN DIEGO — It took a half-hour for Bill Romanowski to become an Oakland Raider.

The former Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco linebacker knew he was finished in Denver. Coach Mike Shanahan made that clear to him.

So Romanowski was looking for a job. He dialed the Raiders' main switchboard and asked for Al Davis.

"His secretary answered," Romanowski said Wednesday. "I said, 'Tell Mr. Davis I want to come help him win another Super Bowl.' A half hour later, I had a message from her. She said, 'Mr. Davis thinks you would look good in silver and black.'"

The 36-year-old Romanowski talked to Davis himself that night and was a Raider by the next day.

He became part of a wave of veteran defenders added to the Oakland defense. Safety Rod Woodson, 37, signed a month later. Defensive tackles John Parrella, 33, and Sam Adams, 29, were signed to shore up the middle of the line.

Those four starters have a combined 48 years of NFL experience and eight Super Bowl appearances. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers enter Sunday's championship game with the NFL's No. 1-ranked defense, but the Raiders' defenders are more than just the guys who take up space while Rich Gannon and that explosive offense rest on the sideline.

The four veterans were only part of

the change in the Raiders' defense. Indeed, there has been so much turnover that Bucs coach Jon Gruden's perceived familiarity with his former team may just be a myth.

"We have nine new starters on our defense this year," Woodson said. "I wasn't here last year. If he [Gruden] knows I eat bananas and yogurt, does that help him? I don't think so. The window of opportunity to win this game is the same for both teams, and that's bigger than Gruden and his history with the Raiders."

The matchup between the Raiders' top-ranked offense and the Bucs' top-ranked defense is understandably the focus of the pregame talk. But it may be the other matchup that decides the outcome of the game.

Figure the two marquee units cancel each other out, and the winner is likely

to be the team whose "other" unit plays best.

Bresnahan has done a solid job getting so many new players acclimated to his aggressive scheme. But in the Raiders' biggest game, the presence of the old guys may be the difference.

"Those are pros we brought in," Raiders coach Bill Callahan said. "They have championship character, and they've given us championship-caliber leadership. They've really provided the younger players with the right direction."

"It's not about rah-rah speeches," Woodson said. "You give a big speech and give up 10 touchdown passes, you lead your team right to nowhere. Leadership is a combination of performance on the field, understanding what to sacrifice, how to study and sharing that. All that is leadership."

Bulls 104, Wizards 97

CHICAGO — Where was the Michael Jordan fans remember most? He was high above the floor at the United Center where a huge video scoreboard flashed highlights of him as he once was.

Slimmer and younger and quicker, the Jordan of the Chicago Bulls' championship years would hang in the air with his tongue wagging, sail easily by a frustrated defender for a dunk or wildly celebrate another title.

Now less than a month shy of his 40th birthday and nearly five years since Chicago's last title, Jordan made one final stop Friday night in a building where he once ruled the game, where a statue of him stands in front of the outside gate.

The pregame ovation, as expected, was loud and long and genuine, but his homecoming didn't have a happy ending for him as his former team, the Bulls, beat the one he now runs, the Washington Wizards, 104-97.

"We both had a chance to say goodbye, let's move on to the rest of the season and move on in life," Jordan said after scoring only 11 points on 4-for-14 shooting.

NBA

Nets 89, Lakers 83

LOS ANGELES — The balance of power has shifted, at least for now, in the NBA.

The Atlantic Division-leading New Jersey Nets, swept by Los Angeles in the NBA Finals last summer, beat the struggling Lakers 89-83 Friday night to drop them four games under .500.

"The Lakers are not what they were last year right now, but it was just big for us to get a victory on this West Coast trip," said the Nets' Kerry Kittles, who scored 17 points and hit a go-ahead three-pointer with 40 seconds remaining.

New Jersey had lost the first three games of its five-game trip.

The Lakers' loss was their third in four games and the three-time defending NBA champions dropped to 19-23.

Spurs 91, Jazz 90

SALT LAKE CITY — Tim Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs found a way to

win without injured center David Robinson.

With Robinson missing his first game of the season because of back spasms, Duncan hit a turnaround jumper at the buzzer to give the Spurs' a 91-90 victory over Utah on Friday night.

"We take chances with him because most of the time he gets it done for us," San Antonio's Stephen Jackson said of Duncan, who finished with 29 points and 17 rebounds.

Duncan couldn't have waited much longer as the Spurs rallied from a 10-point deficit. Karl Malone led Utah with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Blazers 97, Hornets 96 (OT)

NEW ORLEANS — Derek Anderson scored 27 points and Arvydas Sabonis scored five of Portland's nine points in overtime.

P.J. Brown's 12-foot jumper at the overtime buzzer rimmed out, giving the Trail Blazers their second straight overtime victory.

Bonzi Wells scored 16 for Portland.

Pistons 98, Rockets 74

HOUSTON — Cliff Robinson scored 20 points and a duel between starting All-Star centers Yao Ming and Ben Wallace never materialized as Detroit rolled to a victory over Houston.

Yao played 23 minutes and had four points and six rebounds for Houston.

Hawks 115, Kings 104

ATLANTA — Glenn Robinson scored 29 points, Jason Terry added 23 and Atlanta overcame an early deficit to beat Sacramento.

The Hawks outscored the weary Kings 18-7 down the stretch.

Celtics 77, Nuggets 58

BOSTON — Paul Pierce had 45 points and almost outscored the entire Denver team in the first half as Boston beat the Nuggets.

Denver had 29 points at the break, one more than Pierce.

From The Associated Press

TENNIS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Serena Williams survived an error-filled match to beat elder sister Venus 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-4 to win the Australian Open for her fourth straight major championship.

Serena added the title to the French Open, U.S. Open and Wimbledon crowns she won last year, all against her sister.

This marked only the sixth time a woman has held all four of tennis' major championships at the same time, and the first since Steffi Graf in 1994.

Also, Fabrice Santoro and Michael Llodra won the men's doubles title, beating top-seeded Mark Knowles and Daniel Nestor 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

BASKETBALL

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs placed center David Robinson on the injured list because of lower back spasms.

Robinson, who back tightened up Wednesday night after the Spurs' loss to Memphis, will miss at least two games.

Being placed on the injured list usually means a player must sit out for at least five games, but Spurs spokesman Tom James said the team was avoiding

that rule by not replacing Robinson on the active roster.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK — Pete Rose is in tax trouble again, and baseball's security department is investigating the career hits leader as he negotiates a possible end to his lifetime ban.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig's position on the talks — and Rose's eligibility for the Hall of Fame — could be affected by the tax revelations, a high-ranking baseball official said on condition of anonymity.

Rose, who served a five-month prison sentence a decade ago on tax charges, owes \$151,689 in federal taxes from 1998, according to the Los Angeles County Recorder's Office. The Internal Revenue Service has filed a lien on a home he owns in suburban Los Angeles, property tax records show.

TEMPE, Ariz. — Opening night was a frustrating one for coach Tony Gwynn.

In Gwynn's debut as coach of his alma mater, San Diego State seemed headed to its first victory over a nationally ranked team in three years, but the Sun Devils scored seven runs in the final three innings off four San Diego State relievers.

Sports in brief

San Diego State blew leads of 4-0 and 5-1 as Arizona State beat Gwynn's Aztecs 7-5.

NEW YORK — The pitching-rich New York Yankees once again have eight starting pitchers.

Injured right-hander Jon Lieber's \$3.5 million, two-year contract was announced by the team, which is counting on him to be part of its rotation for 2004.

Lieber, who turns 33 in April, had a ligament in his right elbow replaced in August, an operation that usually has a recovery time of about one year.

Lieber went 20-6 in 2001 for the Chicago Cubs and was selected for the NL All-Star team. He had a ligament in his right elbow replaced Aug. 7 after going 6-8 with a 3.70 ERA and three complete games in his fourth season with the Cubs.

DENVER — The Colorado Rockies finalized a one-year contract with All-Star shortstop Jose Hernandez.

Hernandez will receive \$1 million.

Hernandez, 33, hit .288 with 24 homers and 78 RBIs last season with Milwaukee and was a National League All-Star.

HOCKEY

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The NHL granted Mark Hamister his fourth and what could be his final extension to complete the conditional purchase of the bankrupt Buffalo Sabres.

Hamister, a Buffalo businessman, and majority partner Todd Berman, a New York City financier, now have until Feb. 3 to sign a purchase asset agreement or risk relinquishing their rights to buy the Sabres, opening the possibility of the team moving or folding at the end of this season.

GOLF

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — First-round leader Harrison Frazar remained in good position to get his first PGA Tour victory when he birdied the next-to-last hole to share with Tom Petrovic the second-round lead in the Phoenix Open.

Petrovic, also looking for his first title, shot a career-low, 8-under-par 63 that left him at 13-under 129. But Frazar, a late starter on the back nine, rolled a 12-foot birdie putt into the center of the cup on No. 8, a 470-yard par-4, and caught up with a 67.

Steve Stricker, Luke Donald, Scott McCarron, John Rollins and John Huston were two shots back.

From The Associated Press

Ex-Raider Allen head Hall of Fame nominees

SAN DIEGO — No matter how hard they try to avoid it, Marcus Allen and the Oakland Raiders could be linked for a football eternity.

On Saturday, one day before Oakland plays in the Super Bowl, the best running back in team history was expected to be voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Don't expect owner Al Davis to celebrate if it turns out that way.

Allen and Davis went through a messy football divorce, complete with name calling and other unpleasantness. The rift never healed and that's not likely to change now.

Nineteen years ago, Allen led Oakland to the Super Bowl championship, rushing for 191 yards and two touchdowns. A year later, he was the NFL's MVP, rushing for 1,759 yards and 11 TDs. He also caught 67 passes for 555 yards and three more TDs.

By 1992, however, the marriage be-

tween Allen and the Raiders was on the rocks, doomed by an ugly contract battle with Davis, who called the running back "a cancer on the team." Allen moved on to the Kansas City Chiefs where he finished his career with five more productive seasons.

A six-time Pro Bowl selection, Allen was the first player in NFL history to rush for more than 10,000 yards and catch passes for 5,000 more. He finished his career with 12,243 yards rushing and 5,411 receiving and scored 145 touchdowns.

Allen isn't the only ex-Raider on the Hall of Fame ballot.

Also among the 15 finalists are longtime Oakland quarterback Kenny Stabler, who led the team to five straight AFC championship games and seven straight winning seasons, and cornerback Lester Hayes.

The other finalists are defensive end

NFL briefs

Elvin Bethea, linebacker Harry Carson, guard Joe Delamielleure, linebacker Randy Gradishar, defensive end Claude Humphrey, guard Bob Kuechenberg, wide receiver James Lofton, wide receiver Art Monk, coach Hank Stram, owner Ralph Wilson, general manager-administrator George Young and tackle Gary Zimmerman.

The candidates will be reduced first to 10 and then to six before the final vote is taken. Election requires approval by 80 percent of the voters.

NFL may soon return to L.A.

SAN DIEGO — The NFL will return to Los Angeles. Details to follow.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue did not say how. He did not say when. But he sounded convincing in his state-of-the-NFL address on Friday.

"We want to be back in Los Angeles. And we are working toward that goal," the commissioner said.

Expansion is one possibility to return a team to the nation's second-largest market, especially if a bid were to emerge backed by a state-of-the-art stadium.

Los Angeles has not had an NFL franchise since the Raiders fled to Oakland and the Rams to St. Louis before the 1995 season.

Jets-Bucs to play in Japan

SAN DIEGO — The New York Jets and Tampa Bay Buccaneers will make their first appearance in an American Bowl when they play in Tokyo in August.

"One of the first things Jon Gruden said to this team was, 'We can take this thing global,'" said Bucs executive vice president Joel Glazer, whose team plays Oakland on Sunday in the Super Bowl.

"When we go to Japan, we definitely will be going global."

From The Associated Press

NHL

Sabres 4, Maple Leafs 0

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Sabres buffed off great goaltending.

Martin Biron made 27 saves for his third straight shutout, and Miroslav Satan had two goals and two assists as the Sabres beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-0 on Friday night.

The Sabres are 5-0-2 in their past seven games and 7-1-2 in January. Toronto lost its second straight.

Biron made several key saves, including two after Buffalo giveaways with the Maple Leafs short-handed. Late in the first, Biron stopped Paul Healey point blank. Almost halfway through the second, he stopped Robert Reichel on a breakaway.

Sabres coach Lindy Ruff, who also saw his team get a shutout from rookie Ryan Miller last week, said the team builds off the play in net.

"We've been getting fantastic goaltending, not just good goal-tending," he said. "After a big save, you go out and it usually builds a little momentum."

After the save on Healey, Satan took a pass from Henrik Tallinder from the opposite point and fired a shot past Ed Belfour.

"We went down five-on-three in the second period and you could see it in the guys' faces that we were going to come out on top," Biron said.

Biron set the Sabres record for consecutive shutout minutes and extended it to 201 minutes, 12 seconds, breaking Dominik Hasek's mark of 178:33. Biron has not given up a goal since Saku Koivu beat him 3:48 into the third period Jan. 11 in Montreal.

Lightning 4, Stars 1

DALLAS — The Dallas Stars were thankful they didn't have long to stew over a flat performance that snapped their NHL-high 12-game unbeaten streak.

Andre Roy scored two first-period goals, and Vincent Lecavalier had a goal and two assists as the Tampa Bay Lightning handed the Stars their first defeat in almost a month, 4-1 on Friday night.

The Stars have a fast turnaround, taking on Western Conference rival St. Louis on the road Saturday night.

"The only good thing about this game is we didn't get anybody tired," Stars coach Dave Tippett said. "It's better to play right away. You hope you've got guys who are bothered by this and want to redeem themselves."

Lecavalier triggered the three-goal first period with his 21st of the season for the Lightning, who also got a goal from Martin St. Louis. Sergei Zubov's power-play goal early in the third period ended John Grahame's bid for his fifth career shutout.

Grahame finished with 25 saves.

"We played hard tonight and knew we had to get on them early," Roy said. "We took some shots and got to the net and good things happened. We were trying to play better defensively and with that team, they have so much skill that we had to concentrate on that tonight."

Dallas was 9-0-3 in its previous dozen games, the longest unbeaten stretch in the league this season and tied for third-best in franchise history. The Stars hadn't lost since Dec. 26, when they were beaten 3-1 in Nashville.

Ruslan Fedotenko and Dan Boyle had two assists each to help the Lightning to its fourth victory over Dallas in 23 meetings.

The line of Lecavalier centering for

Roy and Fedotenko accounted for three goals and four assists.

"That line was tremendous in the first period and we didn't want to back off," Lightning coach John Tortorella said.

Tampa Bay moved within two points of first-place Washington in the Southeast Division.

Coyotes 5, Oilers 1

EDMONTON, Alberta — Daymond Langkow scored three goals, and Zac Bierk made 38 saves for Phoenix.

Langkow got the Coyotes started with a short-handed goal 5:52 in. He made it 3-0 with his ninth goal of the season midway through the second period, and completed his second career hat trick by beating Tommy Salo midway through the third.

Anson Carter ended Bierk's bid for his second career shutout early in the final period. Shane Doan assisted on all three goals by Langkow.

Devils 3, Mighty Ducks 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jay Pandolfo broke a 1-1 tie with a short-handed goal midway through the final period, and New Jersey got its sixth straight victory.

Jeff Friesen scored on a breakaway 24 seconds after the opening faceoff, and Jamie Langenbrunner hit an empty net with 3 seconds left.

Corey Schwab made 19 saves for the Devils, unbeaten in nine games (8-0-1).

Islanders 3, Flyers 1

PHILADELPHIA — Michael Peca, Roman Hamrlik and Mark Parrish scored goals for New York.

Kim Johnsson scored for Philadelphia, which had two goals disallowed against former Flyer Garth Snow — including one by Mark Recchi that would have tied it with 9:17 left.

The Flyers had won four straight and 10 of 11. The Islanders, coming off a 5-0 home loss to the New York Rangers on Tuesday night, are 10-3-0-2 in their last 15 games.

Hurricanes 3, Panthers 1

RALEIGH, N.C. — Nic Wallin and Josef Vasicek scored in a 2½-minute span of the second period, and the Hurricanes snapped an eight-game losing streak.

The defending Eastern Conference champions came within a defeat of matching the longest losing streak in franchise history, set in 1983.

Peter Worrell's first goal in 25 games with 6:49 left ruined Arturs Irbe's bid for his first shutout of the season. Eric Cole had the other Carolina goal against Robert Luongo as the Panthers fell to 2-7-0-1 in their last 10 games.

Red Wings 5, Canucks 2

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Detroit defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom scored the go-ahead goal with 6:45 remaining.

Lidstrom pinched in from the right point, reached back behind his body and swept Henrik Zetterberg's cross-ice pass underneath Dan Cloutier.

Darren McCarty and Tomas Holmstrom added goals in the final minutes for the Red Wings, who got 27 saves from Manny Legace. Detroit's Patrick Boileau scored his first NHL goal. Markus Naslund and Todd Bertuzzi scored for Vancouver.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

NHL

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	29	12	3	3	64	123	93
Philadelphia	27	12	8	1	63	121	102
N.Y. Islanders	22	19	5	2	51	134	141
Pittsburgh	20	20	4	5	49	130	141
N.Y. Rangers	21	23	6	1	49	131	149

Northwest Division

Ottawa	31	11	6	1	69	163	107
Toronto	25	19	4	1	55	136	123
Boston	24	18	5	1	54	147	129
Montreal	19	19	6	5	49	129	144
Buffalo	15	23	7	2	39	104	119

Southeast Division

Washington	22	18	6	3	53	139	136
Tampa Bay	20	18	7	4	51	137	140
Florida	14	18	9	8	45	110	144
Carolina	17	23	6	4	44	110	138
Atlanta	15	26	3	4	37	128	175

Western Conference

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	27	13	7	2	63	146	120
St. Louis	26	14	6	4	62	161	128
Chicago	21	16	9	3	54	117	116
Nashville	15	21	8	4	42	106	130
Columbus	18	25	4	2	42	138	156

Northwest Division

Vancouver	28	16	5	0	61	153	130
Minnesota	25	16	7	1	58	122	105
Edmonton	23	16	5	6	57	138	136
Colorado	18	14	10	5	51	135	122
Calgary	16	23	7	3	42	104	138

Pacific Division

Dallas	27	11	11	1	66	152	101
Anaheim	20	18	7	4	51	119	123
Phoenix	18	20	7	4	47	124	134
Los Angeles	18	22	4	4	44	122	137
San Jose	16	20	6	5	43	124	146

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Friday's games

Buffalo 4, Toronto 0
Carolina 3, Florida 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, Philadelphia 1
Tampa Bay 4, Dallas 1
Phoenix 5, Edmonton 1
Detroit 5, Vancouver 2
New Jersey 3, Anaheim 1

Saturday's games

Atlanta at N.Y. Rangers
Washington at Montreal
Chicago at Pittsburgh
Buffalo at Ottawa
Philadelphia at Boston
Colorado at Toronto
N.Y. Islanders at Columbus
Carolina at Florida
Dallas at St. Louis
Tampa Bay at Nashville
Detroit at Calgary
Minnesota at San Jose
New Jersey at Los Angeles

Sunday's games

N.Y. Rangers at Washington
Chicago at Montreal
Phoenix at Vancouver

Monday's games

Nashville at Buffalo
Ottawa at Dallas
San Jose at Los Angeles

NBA

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	29	14	.674	—
Boston	25	18	.581	4
Philadelphia	22	21	.512	7
Orlando	23	22	.511	7
Washington	21	22	.488	8
New York	17	24	.415	11
Miami	15	27	.357	13½

Central Division

Indiana	31	12	.721	—
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Detroit	28	14	.667	2½
New Orleans	23	21	.523	8½
Milwaukee	20	21	.488	10
Chicago	16	27	.372	15
Atlanta	15	28	.349	16
Toronto	10	33	.233	21
Cleveland	8	35	.186	23

Western Conference

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	34	8	.810	—
San Antonio	27	15	.643	7
Utah	25	17	.595	9
Minnesota	25	18	.581	9½
Houston	23	18	.561	10½
Memphis	13	29	.310	21
Denver	10	32	.238	24

Pacific Division

Sacramento	32	12	.727	—
Portland	26	15	.634	4½
Phoenix	26	18	.591	6
Golden State	19	23	.452	12
L.A. Lakers	19	23	.452	12
Seattle	18	23	.439	12½
L.A. Clippers	16	26	.381	15

Friday's games

Phoenix 110, Orlando 107
Indiana 93, Seattle 80
Boston 77, Denver 58
Atlanta 115, Sacramento 104
Dallas 101, New York 90
Chicago 104, Washington 97
Minnesota 88, L.A. Clippers 85
Detroit 98, Houston 74
Portland 97, New Orleans 96, OT
San Antonio 91, Utah 90
New Jersey 89, L.A. Lakers 83

Saturday's games

Philadelphia at Miami
Minnesota at Washington
Atlanta at Cleveland
Seattle at Memphis
Denver at Milwaukee
Detroit at San Antonio
Utah at Golden State

Sunday's games

Sacramento at Toronto
Orlando at Boston
Houston at Chicago
Phoenix at New York
L.A. Clippers at Indiana
Portland at Dallas

Monday's games

LA Clippers at Cleveland
Phoenix at Washington
Indiana at Miami
San Antonio at Minnesota
Houston at Memphis
Milwaukee at New Orleans
New Jersey at Denver

College basketball Men's Top 25 schedule

Saturday's games

No. 1 Arizona at No. 6 Kansas
No. 2 Pittsburgh vs. Georgetown
No. 3 Duke vs. Georgia Tech
No. 4 Texas vs. No. 21 Missouri
No. 7 Oklahoma at Baylor
No. 8 Kentucky at No. 15 Alabama
No. 9 Louisville at Tennessee
No. 11 Connecticut vs. Villanova at the Hartford Civic Center
No. 12 Maryland at Clemson
No. 14 Indiana at Purdue
No. 16 Notre Dame at Boston College
No. 18 Illinois at Penn State
No. 19 Georgia vs. No. 24 Auburn
No. 20 Marquette vs. DePaul
No. 22 Mississippi State vs. LSU
No. 23 Oregon vs. Washington State
No. 25 California vs. UCLA

Sunday's games

No. 10 Creighton vs. Texas Christian
No. 13 Oklahoma State at Texas Tech
No. 17 Wake Forest vs. Florida State

From The Associated Press